(b) whether Government have taken up the matter with Government of United Kingdom; if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) Government are aware that an Asylum and Immigration Appeals Bill is under consideration in the British Parliament. One of the provisions of the Bill is the withdrawal of the right of appeal against refusal of visa for those seeking short-term entry into the UK for six months or less, including students.

(b) This matter has been taken up with the British Government at a high level. We have been informed that the provisions of the Bill under consideration will have no effect on the grant of visas to bonafide short-term visitors to the United Kingdom.

(c) Does not arise.

Visas issued to Consulate General of India Karachi

1775. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) how many Pakistani nationals were issued visas to visit India by the Consulate General of India in Karachi to-date after Pakistans directive to India to cut the strength of Consulate by half :

(b) whether the Pakistani directive has any effect on the visas seekers in Karachi;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government proposes to fix any quota or number of visas which may be issued by the Consulate at Karachi; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) During the period from 28th January, 1993 when the staff strength of the Consulate General at Karachi was brought down to 20 personnel to 4th March 1993, 1703 visas have been issued at Karachi.

(b) and (c) On an average the Consulate General at Karachi had been issuing 700 visas per day in the period prior to the reduction in staff strength.

The reduced strength of staff in the Consulate General of India in Karachi has seriously affected the expeditious processing of visa requests of Pakistani nationals to visit India and has consequently reduced people to people contact between India and Pakistan.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Non-acceptance of Indian Nominee in Disarmament Secretariat

1776. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India could get its nominee accepted by the Disarmament Secretariat;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that our nominee was too junior in status; and

(c) if so, what are the details and reasons for our failure to secure acceptance of Indian representative in the Disarmament Secretariat ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) to (c) Government had nominated its candidate for the post of Deputy Executive Secretary in the Preparatory Commission Secretariat of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The selection for the post has been deferred as other countries (Austria, Pakistan and China) have announced their candidature for the same post.

The nomination was done taking into account the nominee's functional experience and abilities.

Indians detained in U.A.E.

1777. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news item captioned "UAE deports 40 Indians" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 3rd February, 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the UAE authorities on unknown charges have detained 40 Indians employed in Oman for nearly 50 days; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The 40 Indian who were working at Al Buraimi, and Omani town bordering UAE, had crossed over to Al Ain, which is a few kilometres away on the UAE side. It is understood that no visa is required for such a movement. In the wake of tragic happenings at Ayodhya, several violent incidents took place in Al Ain. As a result the UAE authorities has arrested a large number of people who did not have proper travel documents and visas in Al Ain area. The 40 persons were among those arrested by the UAE authorities in Al Ain. The 40 arrested Indian pleaded for repatriation to Al Buraimi on the ground that they had valid travel documents and permission to stay in Oman. It is understood that some discussions on the subject took place between the Immigration authorities of UAE and Oman. Considerable efforts were also made by our Missions in Abu Dhabi and Muscat to facilitate return of these detainees to Oman. In the prevailing situation, Omani authorities were, however, not agreeable to allow re-entry to the 40 detainees to Oman. The UAE authorities, therefore, decided to repatriate all the 40 persons to India. The insistence of 40 detainees to return to Oman caused some delay in the issue of temporary travel documents and their final repatriation to India. The detainees finally arrived in India towards the end of January, 1993.

(d) The Government has taken up the matter through diplomatic channels and our Mission in Muscat is in constant touch with Omani Government as well as the sponsors to work out a viable solution for their return to Oman. It is now understood that due to our Mission's efforts the sponsors have so far agreed to take back three of the forty Indian nationals.

भारत के खाड़ी देशों के साथ संबंध

1778. **श्री दिग्विजय सिंह** : क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि दंगाइयों को खाड़ी देशों से हथियार प्राप्त हुए थे ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार द्वारा इस मामले में खाड़ी देशों के साथ बातचीत की गई है अथवा किए जाने का विचार है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और इसके क्या परिणाम निकलने की संभावना है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० एल० भाटिया) : (क) ऐसी कोई विशिष्ट सूचना सरकार के पास नहीं है ।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Indian Mission opened/closed during last two years

1779. SHRI MATANG SING : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) details of the countries where Indian Mission has been opened/upgraded or closed down or reduced during the past two years;

(b) reasons in such cases along with justifications;

(c) whether some countries have approached the Government for opening or upgrading their Mission; and

(d) if so, the details regarding each such proposal and action taken/proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) Since January 1, 1991; Indian Missions have been opened in the following countries :—

1. Ukraine	08-05-92
2. Kazakhstan . . .	09-05-92
3. Belarus	14-05-92
4. Israel	15-05-92
5. Russia :—	
(i) CGI Vladivostock .	09-09-92
(ii) CGI St. Petersburg .	13-01-93
6. China :—	
CGI Shanghai .	16-11-92